

Diversity Council Minutes – Tues. November 15, 2005

Presiding:

Gordon Flake, committee chair

Members Present:

Sharon Bryant, Gordon Flake, David Goulding, Mike Humble, Ginny Ivanoff (OEEO, non-voting), Ethel Jackson, Bill Jirles, Charle League, Bill Quattlebaum, Boris Risek, Bill Steinmetz, Molly Vallant (non-voting), and Linda Yu

Members Absent:

Kathy Ahlmark, Janice Allen, Cliff Baldwin, Alyce Bradbury, William Boyd, Rodrigo Franco, Veronica Godfrey (BIG, non-voting), Ron Herbert (NIH catalyst, non-voting), Jackie Locklear, Alicia Moore, Gerard Roman (OEEO, non-voting), Lisa Rogers, and Bill Steinmetz

Old Business

A. Minutes

The October 12, 2005 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

B. Reports

1. Disability Awareness Month:

- a. Hearing Dog Demonstration: Excellent turnout for Kelly Godfrey's presentation with her dog Panther. This event also raised awareness for Dogs for the Deaf, a non-profit organization that rescues pound dogs to train as hearing dog companions. The dogs are provided to their charges at no cost.
- b. Stem Cell Symposium: This event was also a success thanks to the many people from the DC and DIR who helped in this endeavor. This event was the most involved function ever attempted by the DC. Our six speakers all gave excellent talks and the roundtable discussion proved to be fascinating. Bravo to Alicia Moore and the Disability Month subcommittee for their hard work.

2. Native American Heritage Month: All is in place Dr. Davis' talk on the Catawba Indians and food samplings – there are fifteen volunteers bringing native dishes - on the 18th of November. Also, we have a storyteller, Lloyd Arneach who will be here on 11/22/05. Both events should be very interesting.

3. MLK/Black History Month: James Rogers, a local, retired National Teacher of the Year, will be our guest speaker. His talk will be at 10:30 on January 24. We are still awaiting a response from Johnetta Cole of Bennett College to see if she will accept our invitation to speak in February for Black History Month. If no response from her comes by Thanksgiving, the subcommittee will invite Dr. Cecil Pickett. The subcommittee needs to get up with Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson to see if the Obesity Panel will proceed.

- 4. International Day:** The subcommittee has volunteers now to present their holiday traditions. There will be a solo Chinese dance performance, a group of children from the Raleigh Chinese School, a Polish dance troupe, and possibly a group of NIEHS employees performing holiday music from Puerto Rico. Phil Hanson will be MC for the event. The menu will be finalized soon.

New Business

- 1. Spirit Lecture:** In as far as we know the subcommittee has only met once. We should get an update from them soon.
- 2. Work-Life Committee:** At the Director's request, a work/life committee has been formed to examine morale issues at the Institute. OEE0 spoke with Mr. Freed to make sure that diversity community is represented.
- 3. Charter Change:** Ginny discussed that it was time to find replacements for the council members who leave the end of this year. She posed the idea to the committee to permit council membership to all NIH employees stationed here at NIEHS (to make up for losing FEB, HR, and some members of DERT). A motion was made to the council and was passed.

Adjourn:

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Ginny Ivanoff, 11/15/05.